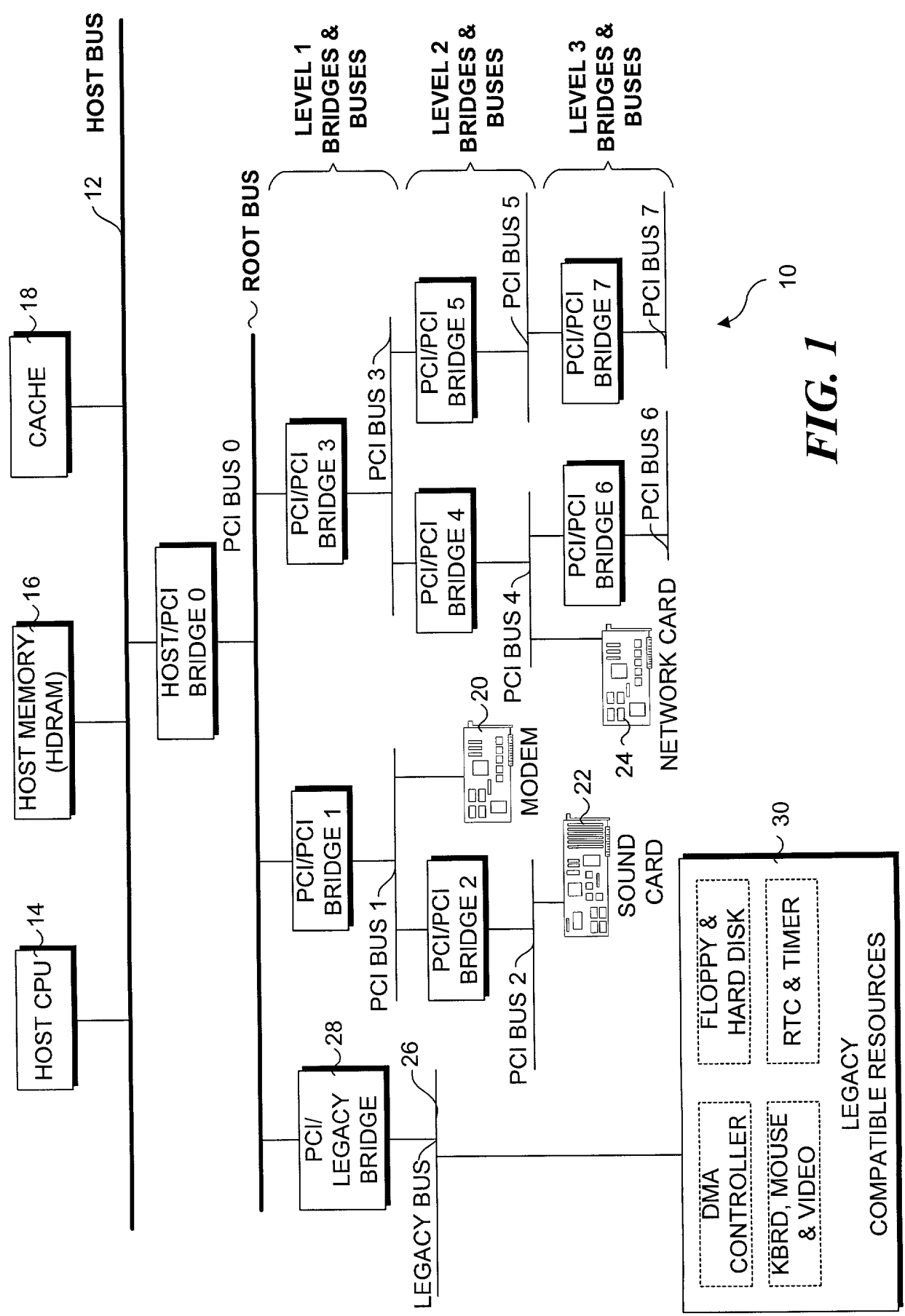


FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer system architecture showing a hierarchical bus structure. The system includes a Host CPU (14), Host Memory (HDRAM) (16), and Cache (18) connected to a Host Bus (12). A Host/PCI Bridge (0) connects the Host Bus to a Root Bus. The Root Bus branches into three levels of PCI Buses: Level 1 (Bridges 3, 4, 5), Level 2 (Bridges 6, 7), and Level 3 (Bridges 1, 2). A Legacy Bus (26) is connected to the Root Bus via a PCI/Legacy Bridge (28). The Legacy Bus connects to Legacy Compatible Resources (30), which include DMA Controller, KBRD, MOUSE & VIDEO, FLOPPY & HARD DISK, and RTC & TIMER. Various peripheral cards are connected to the PCI Buses: a Modem (20) to PCI BUS 4, a Sound Card (22) to PCI BUS 2, and a Network Card (24) to PCI BUS 6.



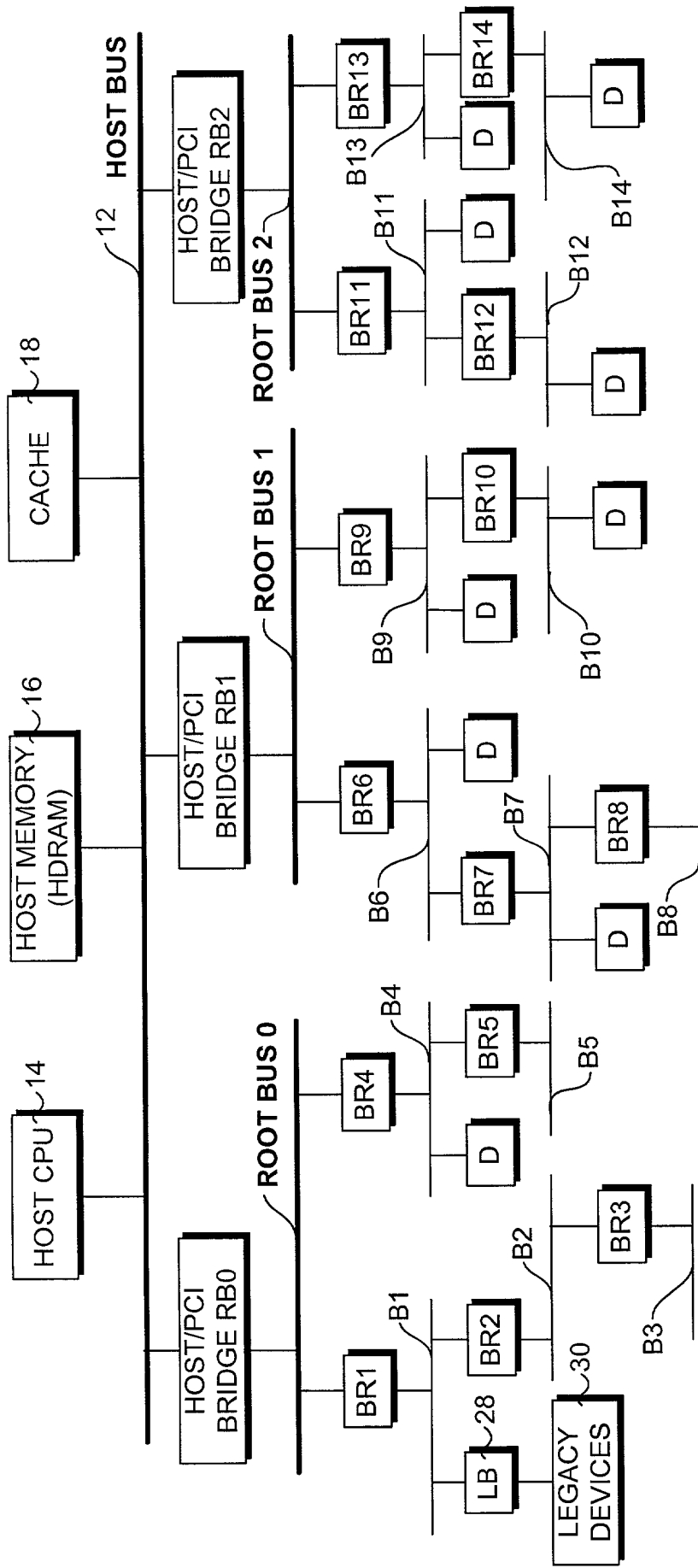


FIG. 2

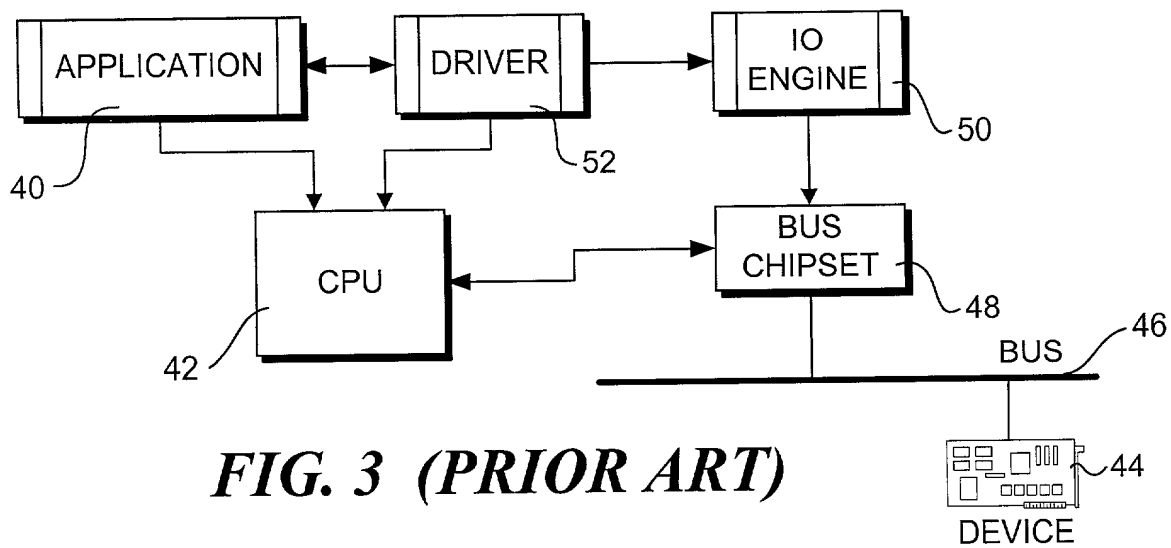


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)

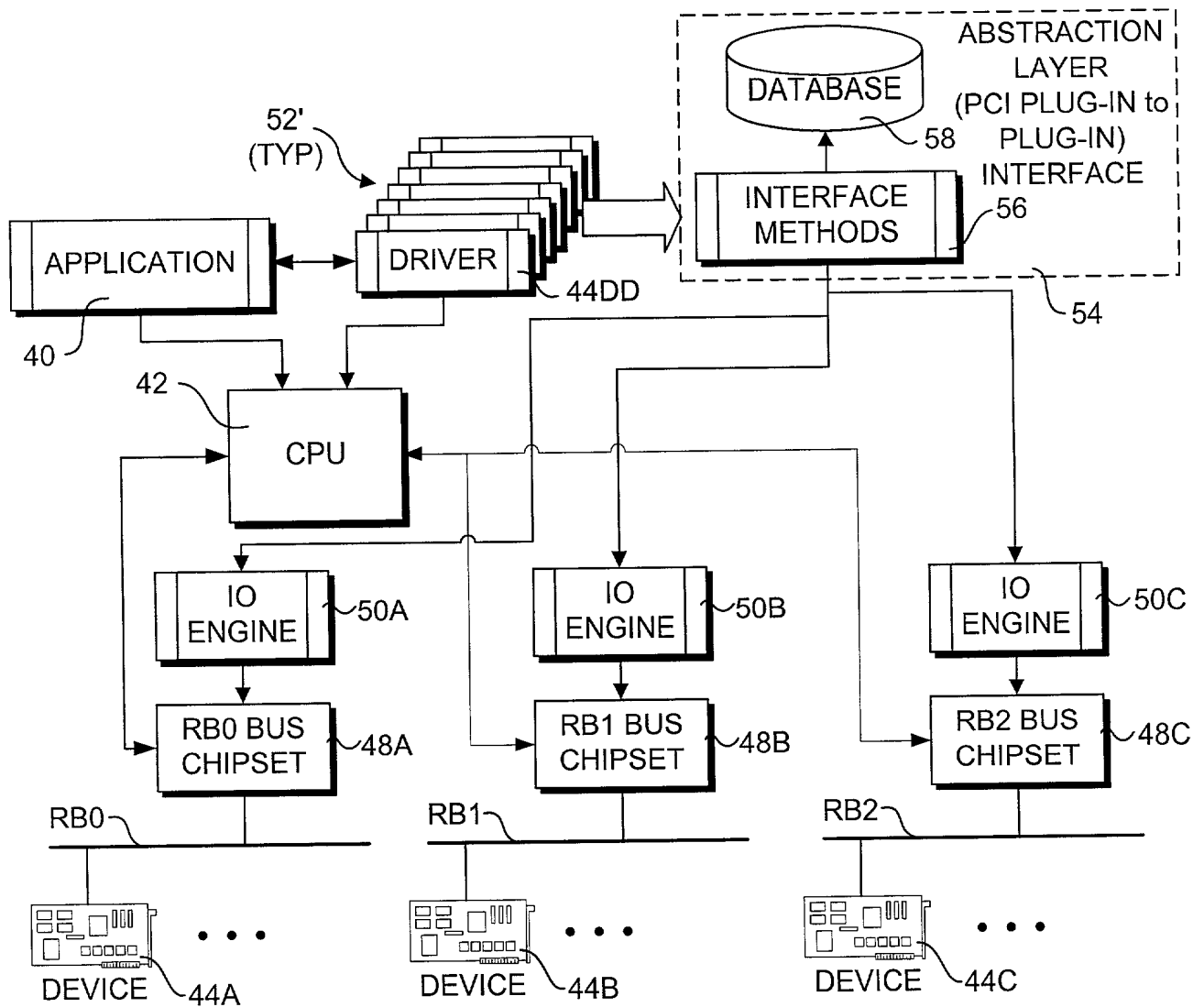


FIG. 4

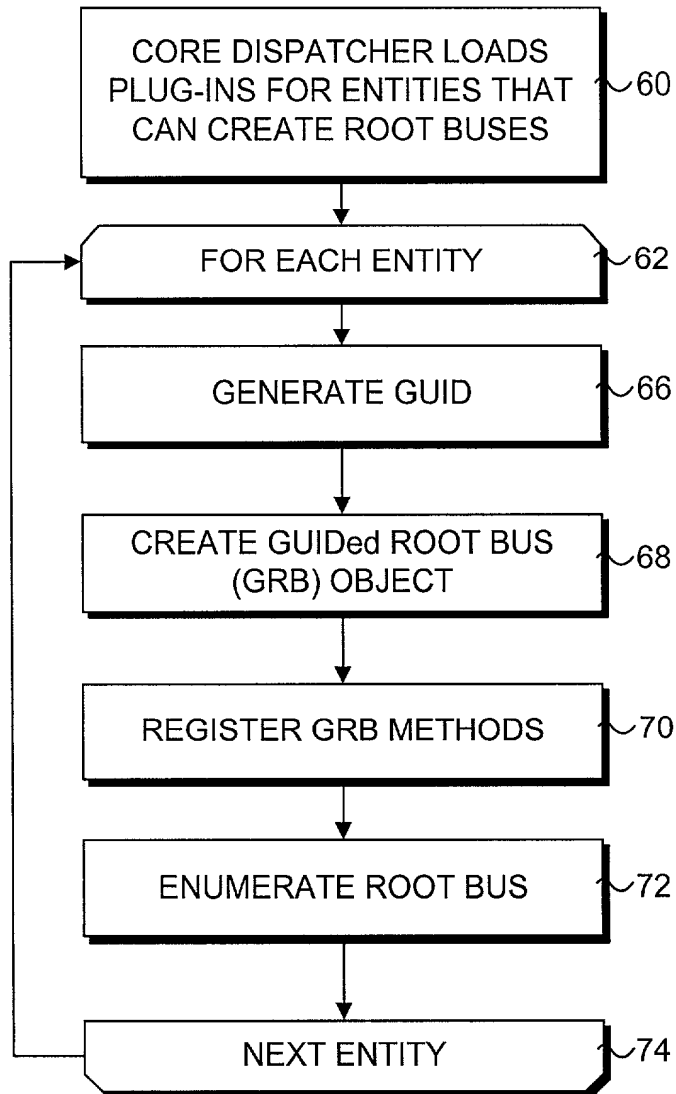
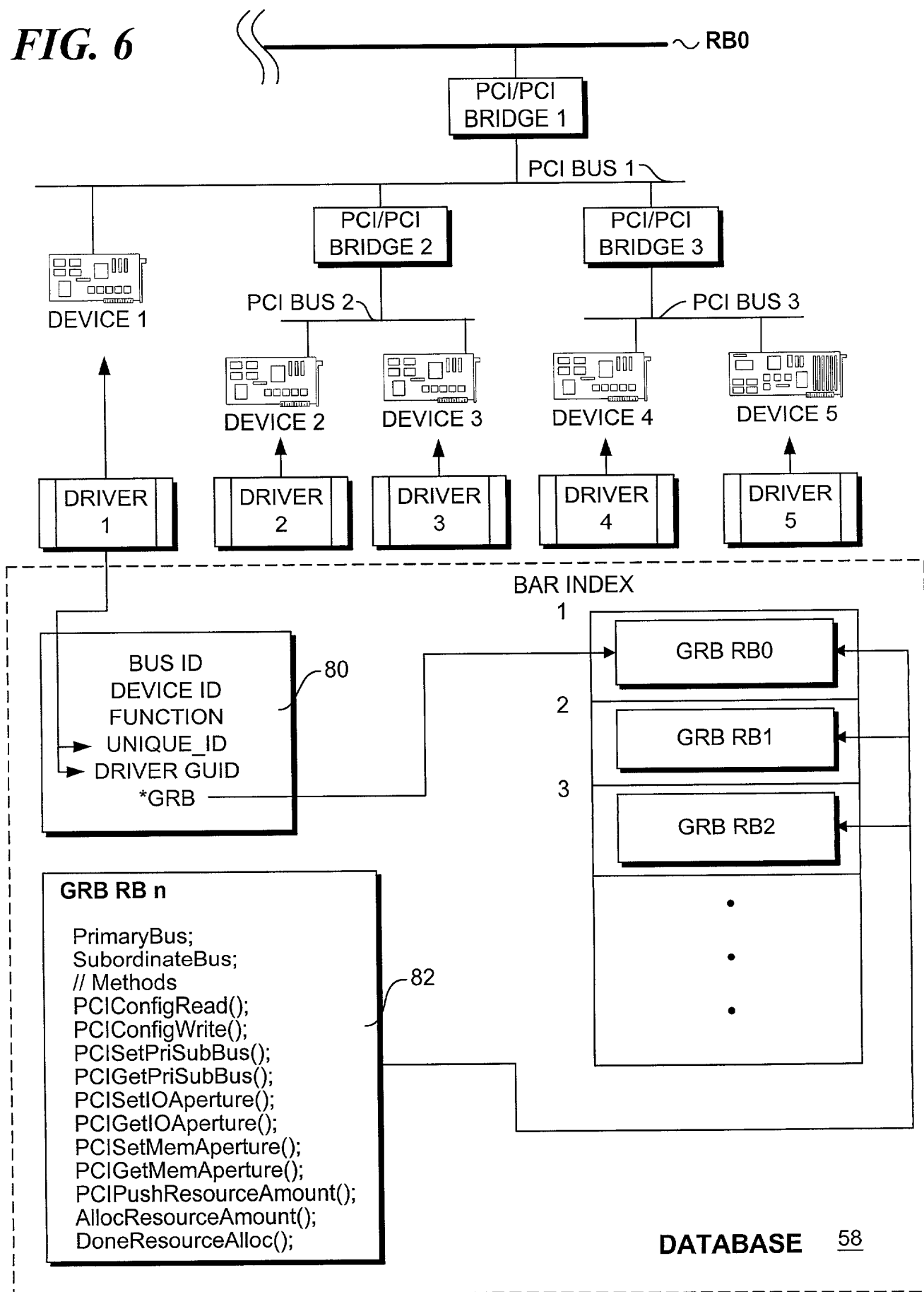


FIG. 5

FIG. 6



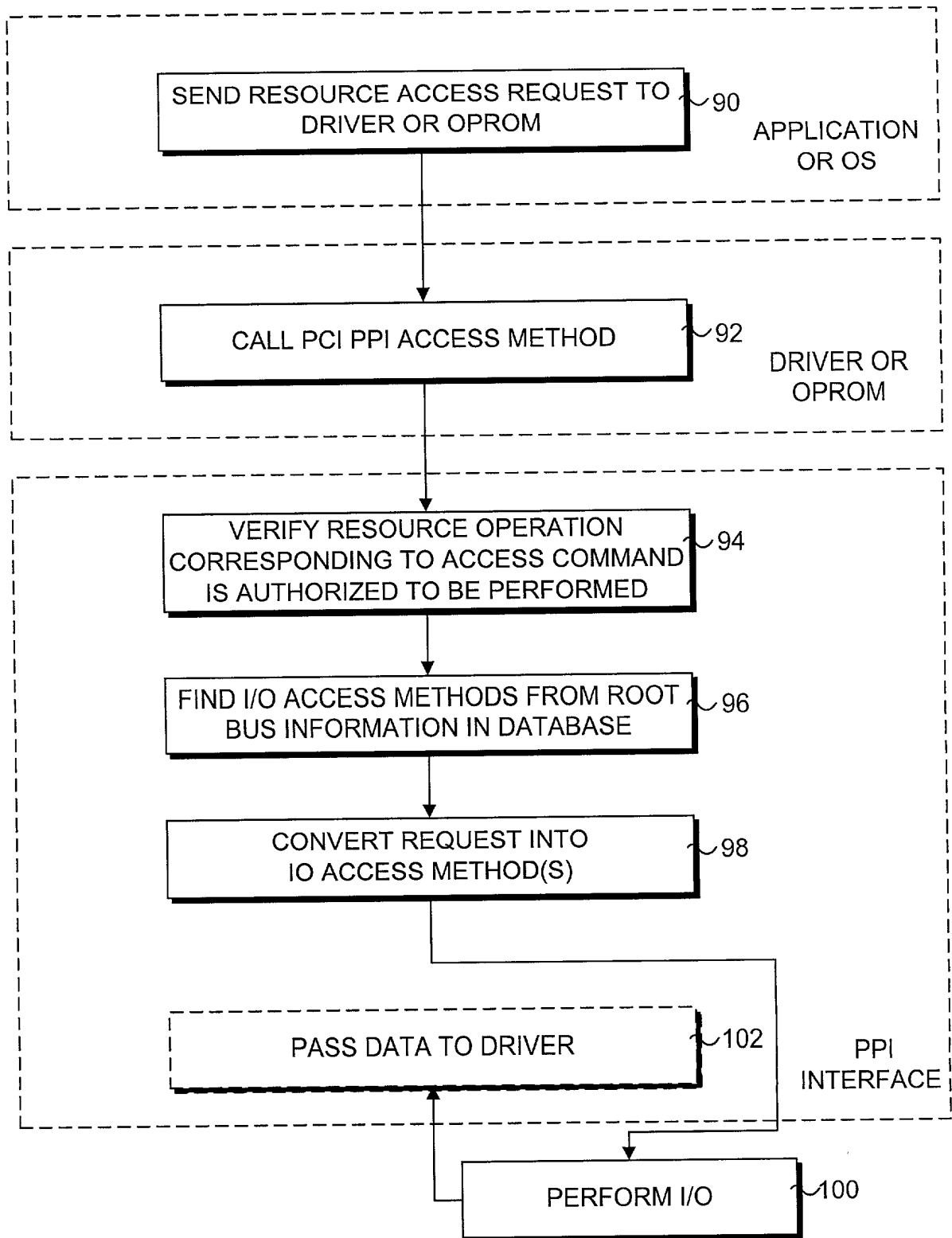


FIG. 7

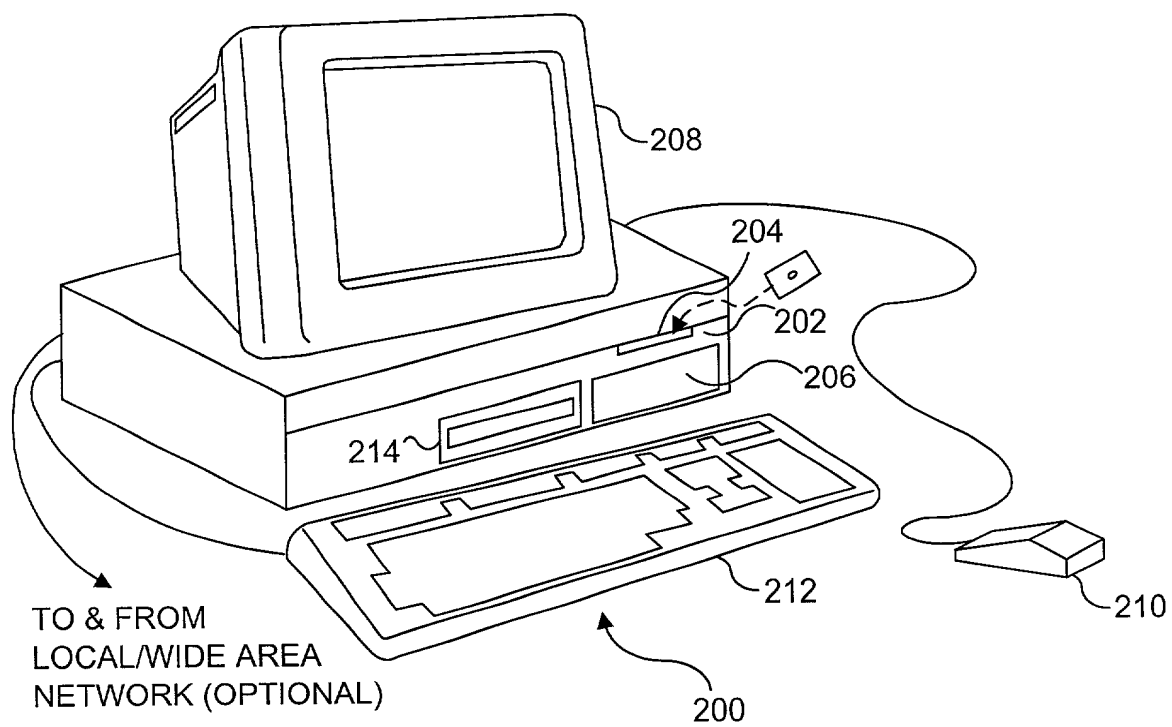


FIG. 8